

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING

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## British Designs on China—Prospect of a New Chinese War.

We commend to the attentive perusal of the public a letter from Paris which we publish in another column. The source from which it comes entitles it to consideration; and the views it puts forward are equally new and striking. It has long been known that Great Britain—or rather its agent, the East India Company—was pushing its triumphant arms up the valley of the Irrawaddy, and reducing the kingdom of Birman to the condition of the Rajahships and principalities of Hindostan. The fact has been noticed over and over again in American journals as conclusive evidence that the remonstrances of the British journals with this country in relation to the acquisition of foreign territory were hypocritical and insincere. But it has never been stated to our knowledge that the chiefs of the British Indian empire only looked to Birman as a means or a road, and that their real aim was the South-western provinces of China. This hypothesis is thrown out in the letter of our correspondent; and conjectural as it is, and must be for the present, it appears so plausible that it may well engage discussion.

The Chinese empire, as is well known to those who have paid any attention to the books of travellers to China, is in the last stage of decay. Everything Chinese is corrupt—the government, the magistracy, the army, the judiciary, the clergy, and society at large. The Imperial government is far too weak to assert control over any distant portion of the empire; and the consequence has been that a band of robbers, organized for purposes of wholesale plunder, have been enabled to overrun the country from south to north, meeting with very little resistance from any constituted authorities, and actually leading foreigners so far to misapprehend their purpose as to call their foray a native revolution. The Chinese army is the purest farce: numbering several millions of men, it is wholly incapable of making any head against the smallest disciplined European force, and would no more resist the East India Company's army than the Creeks would withstand United States troops. Up to our latest accounts the feeble central authority had not been positively thrown off by any of the Provinces, save the strip of sea coast which the rebel Taeping Wang had subjugated. But the bond was so weak, and the affinity between the northern and southern provinces so slender, that several travellers have been struck with astonishment at the duration of the empire, and have predicted that the moment European energy and restlessness penetrated the interior, disunion would follow, and the four hundred millions of Chinese would be split up into half a dozen nations, warring against each other, and ready to fall an easy prey to any active and unscrupulous invader.

Such is the country on which the insatiable statesmen of Great Britain have set their eye. If they had followed the policy pursued in 1846, and picked a quarrel with the Chinese at one of the five ports, and waged it by sea, it would have been impossible to hinder the United States and France from sharing in the spoils. At most, England could only have hoped to obtain one third of the rich booty. Whereas, by pushing her arms gradually north-west and westward through Birman, the object of the government is attained as speedily and without attracting any attention. The British soldiers may penetrate to the heart of China by the southwest flank—may espouse the quarrel of this party against that party, and secure the victory to whichever they please on condition of subservience to British interests—may, in short, reduce half of the Empire to the condition of a British protectorate, before the world is half aware of their designs.

Whether the Emperor of the French is wholly ignorant of this scheme, or whether he is willing to shut his eyes to British aggrandisement in the East, in return for a like complacency on the part of England when he proceeds to extend the frontiers of France in Europe, and the area of her colonies in Africa—cannot be stated with anything like certainty. The schemes which are on foot apparently for the spread of intelligence and thought, but in reality for the diffusion of British and French influence, are absolutely stupendous. Only to mention one of them—a telegraph line in process of construction that will stretch from London to Canton, and Melbourne, Australia, passing through France to Corsica and Sardinia, from Sardinia to Algiers, from Algiers along the north shore of Africa to Cairo and Suez, from thence along the shore of Asia to Hindostan, which it will cross; from Calcutta through Birman, on the one side to Canton, and on the other along the coast to Polynesia and Australia. What is most wonderful perhaps in this remarkable enterprise is the fact that in the whole line from London to Melbourne, and from London to Canton, there will only be 400 miles of submarine wire in any one place. The canal across the Isthmus of Suez is another enterprise of the same kind and with the same purpose.

Now, if the United States do not intend to be left far behind in the race for supremacy, these proceedings should not be overlooked. If we do not want to wake up some fine morning and find the whole of Asia British, and the whole of Europe and North Africa French, some notice should be taken of these schemes of annexation and aggrandisement. A commissioner should be sent at once to Birman, and the British government should be notified that if it adds another province to its already enormous empire in the East, the United States will, for their own protection, take what measures they deem needful for extending their area on this continent. To sleep, to be negligent in this age of telegraphs and railroads, is to die.

A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINESS.—A Mrs. Fonda is making speeches in Illinois against Senator Douglas. What has the Senator done, we should like to know? He has probably been seconding the Virginia demand for the nomination of that terrible slaveholder, Henry A. Wise, for the Presidency. Anything to defeat the old fogies.

DOES HE GIVE IT UP?—It is said that Mr. Fillmore has made arrangements for spending the winter in Italy. How is this? The Know Nothings will probably meet in national convention in February. Has Mr. Fillmore heard that George Law is ahead in New York, or does our amiable ex-President give it up?

THE MEXICAN TREATY MONEY.—Report says that Mr. Cushing is of the opinion, as a lawyer, that the three millions unpaid of the Mexican treaty money should be handed over to Santa Anna's bond holders. Very likely.

## The Fate of Mexico and Cuba—The Great Question of 1855 and 1856.

It is a careless observer that does not see in the position of these States matters of peculiar interest to the American people and government. In nothing are politicians, of whatever country, more remarkable than for concealing the operation of the laws of population, and misrepresenting the tendency of those laws.

A little more than a year ago and the Turkish Empire, threatened by the colossal power of Russia, excited in the minds of all men the liveliest interest and the deepest solicitude for its safety. Subsequent events have gone far to prove that the Turkish people possess few of the true elements of civilization—that in almost every respect they are inferior to nearly all the nations by which they are surrounded, and that their decline has been fixed by the contact in which they have been brought with their superior neighbors. At this day it must be apparent that the Sultan's government is destined hereafter to be a dependence of some of the great States of Europe, and ultimately his territories partitioned between them. The history of the settlement and subsequent conquest of Texas, the settlement and conquest of California, now constituting two prosperous agricultural and commercial States of the Union, and infinitely identified with the general prosperity of the country, bear a striking analogy to the present position and the probable future of the Turkish empire. The difference between the two countries, in their populations, in their habits of life, their pursuits, and their ability to become great producing communities, arise from the radical difference between the American and European mind. It is, however, only one of degrees, the superior acting upon the inferior there, as here. In reference to the absorption of Texas, it will be remembered, a large portion of the people of the United States were utterly opposed to it. Our government again and again avowed its purpose to prevent it. A large majority were hostile to its acquisition.

Meantime it was rapidly settled by our race—its institutions were formed on the model of our States—its civil polity was essentially American. Its intercourse, its local institutions, its commerce, its general industry, and above all, its thoughts and feelings were American. The laws of population had accomplished all this; they had done more—they had settled the question of its annexation to this country, and sooner or later, with or without war, Texas was destined to come into the federal Union. The dogma of manifest destiny concealed the immutable law of progress. It had decreed what timid statesmen felt must take place, but what they dare not avow.

Though exciting questions of internal discord and strife now weigh upon the country, the time is not distant when the fate of both Mexico and Cuba must be settled by the American people. As in the case of Texas, the public mind is straining itself to put them off. Commerce and capital, ever cautious and fearing war, is avowing hostility to any further annexation. They tell the American people that we already have enough, that this government is extended until its parts no longer feel its central authority; until antagonisms are warring upon its harmony, fretting its councils and threatening its stability. Meantime, the answer to all this is apparent: the States added to the Union are firmest in their attachment to the Constitution, and among its most successful in every branch of industry. Population is rapidly advancing its frontier limits, and political power as rapidly transferred from the East to the West. The influence of this transformation upon the general policy of the Union will soon be felt in a bolder and more fearless expression of the purposes of the nation in reference to contiguous states; giving effect to the superior industry and enterprise which has already subjected Louisiana, Florida, Texas and California to its dominion, and will in the end absorb both Mexico and Cuba.

This question, it is evident, has an international bearing as well as a local interest to the American people. It is important to see that Mexico and Spain are in a rapid and certain decline; that all the conservatism in the world of the balance of power and the status quo cannot save them. They are, like Turkey, falling piece by piece into the hands of political administrators. Vitality in their systems is no longer visible; their extremes are paralyzed. They can interpose no resistance of themselves to whatever may be required by their neighbors. While this is undeniably so, it is not strange that their heirs, or those that claim the inheritance of their estates, are particularly active in looking after their concerns.

The governments of Europe, perhaps with no view of securing benefits to themselves, and with the sole purpose of crippling the power or preventing the extension of the United States, have determined that Cuba and Mexico shall not be absorbed by the American Union. They have undertaken, in the language of Lord Clarendon, to regulate affairs on this continent; which means that they have combined to prevent the further progress of the free institutions of our system over any more territory. This is the question. It is a question which must be decided in the United States, for we have the right and the undoubted ability to determine what course we will pursue, and whether we will or will not acquire both Mexico and Cuba. This is a problem rising above all filibustering expeditions and projects—a great national interest, to be settled by enlarged and comprehensive views, not of the present alone, but of the future.

As a practical question of the day, one involving in fact the ways and means of accomplishing our object in the end, but at the same time wisely considerate of the course that should be pursued by our government, it may be proper to withhold from the European Cabinets an expression of our views on the immediate subject of annexation. But when those Cabinets shall avow a purpose to force a protectorate over either Cuba or Mexico, or in any manner to attempt to exercise control and supervision over American affairs, we hold it to be the duty of our government to meet them by a prompt declaration that we will not submit to it. We would go farther; and when our transatlantic opponents come on this side of the water to attend to the affairs of either Spain or Mexico, we would promptly avow to them that no exertion of our power shall be wanting to transfer to ourselves all such territories as may be thus brought into dispute, and relieve them at once of the necessity of intervention. We must come to this. It is all before us. It will be forced upon us even in self-defence. The attitude of Europe

is unmistakable. Her governments will undertake to decide how far we shall go; they will declare a purpose to set limits to our industry and to our enterprise, to fence in our frontiers, to circumscribe our relations, in truth to place us in political dependence on monarchy.

Our great strength lies in the freedom of the laws of population, as well as in the freedom of our political system. It is the former which are the subject of attraction, and which have drawn to our shores millions from the other side of the water. It is what has peopled our new States, what has raised up an army of independent proprietors and hardy citizens, which the combined aristocrats of the world cannot conquer. These are the real filibusters of America. It is they who have conquered Texas, subdued California, peopled Louisiana and Florida—who have invested Mexico and Cuba, and who ultimately will possess both those countries.

This class it is who, in fact, stand ready to meet the intrigues of the London cabinet, to answer Lord Clarendon and the London Times, to put arguments and resolution into our government, and to direct its future action. They are not abstractionists, agitators and counterfeited moralists. Not from them have come projects of disunion. To Massachusetts, Vermont and South Carolina are such honors reserved.

HOLLAND'S DEALING WITH JAPAN.—We transfer to our columns this morning the translation of a report presented by the Colonial Minister of the Netherlands to the King, on the subject of Japan. It will be found to be a highly interesting document. It is a narrative which commences in 1845, at which time the King of Holland addressed the late Emperor of Japan, recommending the abandonment of the old exclusive policy of the empire, and treats of the events that have since occurred there, embracing the visit of Commodore Perry, of the Russian Admiral Potiatine, and of the Dutch man-of-war Soembing. It also comprises the draft of a treaty proposed between the Netherlands and Japan, with the explanatory notes and suggestions belonging to the subject.

It would appear from this report that the Japanese themselves have begun to recognize the benefits that would result to them from an abandonment of their historic exclusiveness, and the consequent cultivation of the arts of European civilization. At the urgent solicitation of the Governor of Nagasaki, some hundreds of the native youths were daily—during the stay of the Soembing—exercised in military and naval tactics, the science of engineering, &c., while others had commenced to learn European languages, particularly Dutch. Furthermore, a special commission of five members of the high government were sent from Jeddo to Nagasaki for the purpose of inspecting the man-of-war, and of acquiring information on ship-building and engineering. All this goes to prove very satisfactorily that the old barriers of prejudice and barbarism are beginning to give way in the empire of Japan before the engines of modern civilization, as first brought to bear by Commodore Perry and the American squadron which he commanded. Read the report.

THE "NIGGER" A GREAT "INSTITUTION."—The New Orleans Crescent throws off the following pointed paragraph concerning the slavery system of the South—

"The 'nigger' is a great, in fact, a stupendous institution. He answers a three-fold purpose, and that is more than many white men are capable of. In the first place he is a laborer, and gathers in a product which clothes a world; which has made Massachusetts rich and many—better than her neighbors, which enables England to carry on the war against Russia; which supplies France with the sinews of conflict, and which helps Christian nations to eat each other's flesh, by furnishing the raw material indispensable to the production of millinery branches of industry."

Secondly, our contemporary says, the nigger serves the purposes of the abolition agitators of the North; and thirdly, the secession fire eaters of the South, which is true. We must admit it. Dispense with the "nigger," and the stock in trade of these ultras of both sections is gone. Common charity, therefore, to the abolitionists and the secessionists, requires that the institution should be kept up. Thousands of philanthropic demagogues in the North, who live upon the sufferings of "Uncle Tom," and the credulity of benevolent political women and sickly fanatics, would be thrown out to starve or to steal if the "nigger" were abolished. He is, in fact, a great "institution," and he must be kept up to regulate the currency. Keep Cuffee in the cotton field. We can't do without him.

MR. DICKINSON DECLINES.—We publish to-day a letter from Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson, declining the invitation to lecture to the Abolition Philosophical Society of Boston. And yet he lectures them pretty roundly in his brief refusal of their generous offer to give him a hearing on the subject of slavery. Mr. Dickinson's position on this subject is so smooth and easy that it fits him like an old night cap. Why don't this Boston committee apply to John Van Buren?

REVIVAL OF THE ECHOY LINE PROJECT.—We published yesterday an interesting communication from Mr. Thomas N. Carr, formerly our Consul at Tangiers, urging the establishment of a line of steamers between the United States and Africa, as a commercial and philanthropic speculation. This is substantially the old project of George Sanders, of some years ago, a project, which at the instance of Mr. Clay, then President of the American Liberator Colonization Society, was adopted by that society and recommended to Congress. But it scarcely had a hearing, and we presume that the present mixed up House of Representatives will have too many other fish to fry to attend to the subject this session. One echoy steamer, however, by way of experiment, would be no great sacrifice should it fail; but if successful, it may open up a prolific traffic with the rich but unappropriated resources of Africa, to say nothing of the benevolent object of the quick, cheap and comfortable transportation of "free colored Americans" to the thrifty color of the republic of Liberia. We turn over the whole matter to the forthcoming Naval Committee of the House.

A JAR AMONG THE WASHINGTON ORGANS.—The Washington Sentinel (hard shell) is giving the Union (Cabinet soft shell organ) a merciless hauling over the coals in reference to its attitudes and partialities to the free soil wing of the New York democratic party. Apropos de better, they say that the Union, having no show in the House, is pipe-laying and undermining to oppose the Sentinel out of the Senate printing. The Sentinel has accordingly thrown a cannonball, as the French at Sebastopol call it, or a stink-pot, as it is more bluntly denominated by the English, into the pit of the Cabinet organ, and if its sappers and miners are not smoked out, it will be apt at least to sicken them considerably. What a blessed thing it is for men and brethren to dwell together in unity! We hope it will not be a hard winter for the poor.

OPENING OF THE SLAVERY LECTURES IN BOSTON.—WHITTIER'S ABOLITION POEMS.—The course of lectures on slavery in Boston arranged for this winter, (and to which so many of our distinguished statesmen and politicians, North and South, have been solicited to contribute), commenced on Thursday evening last at the Tremont Temple, with an address from Horace Mann, (that bitter enemy of Daniel Webster), his theme being the significant one of "Equal Liberty to All Men." After this address, an out-and-out abolition affair, a poem by that meek and charitable abolition Quaker poet, John G. Whittier, was read, of the staple of which our Southern readers may judge by the following extract. The abolition poet is describing a Southern village:—

A village straggling in loose disorder,  
Vulgar and new, in premature decay.  
A tavern crass with its whiskey breath,  
With slaves at auction gawking in its walls;  
Without surrounded by a motley crowd;  
The shrouded sallow, gaunt and loud,  
The squire of color, and the squire of white,  
Known at free fights, the caucus and the race,  
Prompt to proclaim his honor without blot,  
And silence doubters with a tape shot,  
Smiling the negro-driving bully's rant,  
With pious phrase and democratic cant,  
Yet never scrupling with a filthy jest  
To sell the future from its mother's breast.

But the following ferocious description of that class of men known among our Seward organs as "Northern dog faces" is quite as complimentary to the parties concerned. The fiery nullification orator of South Carolina, McDuffie, said in one of his nullification speeches, "When I hear a Northern man cry, 'the Union, the glorious Union,' methinks I hear the bugle blast of the robber band; but when I hear a Southern man cry 'the Union, the glorious Union,' methinks I sniff treason in the tainted gale!" Whittier's abolition poetry eclipses McDuffie's nullification eloquence. Think of a Southern man smashing through every obstacle like "a cannon ball;" think of the "mean traitor" of the North with a "nasal speech," and the "mud turtle living with his head chopped off!" Listen to the gentle muse of the sautty Whittier, oh! ye "dog-faces" of the recreant North. Hear him:—

Whom shall we strike—who most deserve our blame—  
The braggart Southern, open in his aim  
And bold as wicked, crying out through all  
That bars his purpose, like a cannon ball,  
Or the mean traitor, breathing Northern air,  
With nasal speech and hypocritical glare,  
Whose cant the loss of principle survives,  
As the mud-turtle from its mother's breasts?

Men of the North! Beneath your very eyes,  
By hearth and home your real danger lies,  
Still day by day some hold of freedom fast,  
Three honest breeders of the noblest race;  
Men who yourselves with vote and purse sustain  
At points of honor, influence and gain.  
The right of slavery to your sons is sold,  
And South-side gospel in your pulpit preached!

Such were the opening services of these abolition lectures in Tremont Temple. Mr. Henry A. Wise has declared that he would rather fight such vicious fanatics than reason with them; but Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, has promised to give them a piece of his mind, face to face. Considering this flattering poetry to the South, we think the least that Mr. Toombs can ask of the Tremont Committee is, that they shall promise to open the proceedings on the evening of his lecture with a repetition of this highly conciliatory poem of Whittier, the affable and amiable Quaker poet aforesaid. It would serve to warm up the Georgia orator to a spirited discussion of his theme. We submit the suggestion to the consideration of Mr. Toombs.

THE CELESTIALS IN AUSTRALIA.—The same sentiment of hostility towards Chinese emigrants which has manifested itself in California, has also sprung up and become even more fully developed in Australia. The principal cause of this hostility is that the Celestials in California, as in Australia, do nothing to promote the prosperity of the country they come to, their sole aim being to extract just enough of the precious metal to enable them to return in comparative wealth to the Flowery Kingdom. The Provincial Parliament of Victoria has taken up the matter, and enacted a stringent bill to put a stop to Chinese emigration. One of the clauses of this bill is to make it a misdemeanor for the captain of any vessel to bring more than two emigrant passengers for each ten tons' measurement; and another is the levying of a capitation tax of ten pounds (fifty dollars) on each of these emigrants. This bill will certainly, if rigidly enforced, have the effect of putting a stop entirely to the emigration of John Chinaman.

NAVY INTELLIGENCE.—The steamship Quaker City arrived here yesterday morning from Philadelphia, having the passage from dock to dock in eighteen and a half hours. The Quaker City was built at Philadelphia for the Charleston trade from that port, but had recently been purchased by a company in Mobile, and will commence her trips from this port to Havana and Mobile about the 3d proximo. The qualities of this fine steamer were fully tested during the time she was on the Charleston route, and established the reputation of a steamer of the first class. The ship is